

2007-2008

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in

**Life and Study**

holland

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# Contents

## Life and Study

2007-2008

**06 Why study in Holland?**

**12 Holland**

a fine blend of culture and innovation

**18 Higher education in Holland**

system, degrees, requirements, accreditation

**26 Scholarships and  
exchange programmes**

**34 Preparing for study in Holland**  
practical matters

**40 Living in Holland**  
daily life, student culture, leisure

**46 Websites and addresses**

**48 Institutions for higher education  
in Holland**







# What do you know?

## Dutch people you certainly heard of

**Anne Frank**, writer of the most famous diary in Dutch literature

**Johan Cruyff**, soccer genius

**Vincent van Gogh**, painter of the sunflowers

**Freddy Heineken**, the name says enough

**DJ Tiësto**, very popular in the dance scene

**Anton Corbijn**, photographer of the rock 'n' roll stars

**Kolonel Parker**, manager of Elvis Presley

**Erasmus**, humanist in the 16th century

**Mata Hari**, double-agent during the First World War

**Viktor & Rolf**, extravagant couture duo

**Rembrandt**, another famous painter

**Paul Verhoeven**, director of the movie Basic Instinct

**Rem Koolhaas**, famous architect

## Fun Facts about Holland

**The Dutch are statistically the tallest people in the world**

**The Netherlands was one of the European Union's founding nations**

**There are 16 million bicycles in Holland, which is about one for every inhabitant**

**The highest point in Holland is 323 metres high and is called a 'mountain'**

**You'll find a bunch of flowers in almost every living room**

**People of 200 nationalities live in Amsterdam**

**When your plane arrives at Schiphol, it lands 4.5 metres below sea level**

**The Netherlands has one of the youngest populations in the EU**

**The International Court of Justice sits at the Peace Palace in The Hague**

**New York was once Dutch**

**One in every three Dutch people belong to a sports club**

**With almost 1,000 museums, Holland has the highest museum density in the world**

**The first World Press Photo Exhibition was held in Holland**

## Some typical Dutch expressions

**We're all equal**

**One thing at a time**

**It's a Dutch treat (everybody pays for himself)**

**All individual opinions are important**

**Act normal and you be acting crazy enough**



Holland, or more formally the Netherlands, is an internationally-oriented and innovative country located at a central spot in Europe.

# Why study in Holland?





## Multicultural and open society

Even as far back as the early 17th century, Holland was an advanced country, with much of its wealth coming from international trade.

Today, international trade is still the main engine of economic growth. Dutch society is multicultural. Groups of people with non-Dutch backgrounds have been living in Holland for decades as a result of historical ties with other parts of the world.

The majority of the Dutch people speak English and very often another foreign language, such as German or French.

## International study environment

Holland was the first non-English-speaking country to offer courses taught in English. The Dutch higher education institutions together offer about 1,150 international study programmes and courses which are taught entirely in English. This makes Holland the front-runner in continental Europe.

## Quality and diversity in education and research

Higher education in Holland enjoys a worldwide reputation for its high quality. This is achieved through a national system of regulation and quality assurance. Holland has also received international acclaim for its ground-breaking Problem-Based Learning system, which trains students to analyze and solve practical problems independently through emphasis on self-study and self-discipline.

## Central spot in Europe

Once you arrive in Holland, you'll discover that many European capitals are within easy reach. Brussels is two hours by train, and a short flight from Amsterdam will take you to Paris, Madrid or Berlin.

The Dutch universities are an ideal starting point for study tours and exchanges with other European countries.

## Value for money

Education in Holland is not free, but tuition fees are reasonable. The latest Worldwide Cost of Living Survey shows that the cost of living in Amsterdam is modest compared with cities like New York, London, Paris and Beijing.

**In this brochure, you will find many more reasons to study in Holland.**

**But the best way is to come and experience it yourself!**



**Alan Guedes (26), Brasil**

## I was surprised by the objective role of the professors

Master of International Development Studies, International School for Humanities and Social Sciences, Amsterdam

In São Paulo, I finished a Bachelor in Business Administration, but I didn't find real fulfilment in what I was doing. Questions about the harsh reality and poverty kept entering my mind, so I decided to work for NGOs in Brazil for social purposes. However, I lacked a theoretical background.

A study that combines development, international and economic aspects is hard to find. I came to Amsterdam because of the very specific programme they offer here. My teacher in Brazil recommended the International School to me. The third argument to support my decision was the cost: education in Holland is affordable for EU students. For non-EU students it is more expensive.

It is a one-year master's programme, which includes three months of fieldwork. About half the students are Dutch, the others come from the US, Canada, Western Europe, with a minority from Latin America, Asia and Africa.

I was surprised by the objective role of the professors here. They present all the possibilities and the different theories, but it's up to you to reflect upon them and to think for yourself. Students can also be very open with their teachers, you can express your feelings and say what you mean. Critical thinking is really the most important capacity for a student, I believe.

Living in Amsterdam is relaxed compared to life in a city like São Paulo. I always go places by bike, it's the perfect way to travel. I even bought some spare bikes for visiting friends.

This city offers you the best of both worlds. If you are a serious student, you get all the possibilities to study hard and you'll find the quietness you need. For all the others, Amsterdam will mean a lot of fun!

## Holland, or the Netherlands

The country's formal name is 'Nederland', meaning the 'low country'. 'Low' because much of the land is at or below sea level. Holland is in fact the name of the western part of the country. In the 17th century, these western provinces were the most developed and wealthiest part of the country.

At present, the provinces of North and South Holland are the most heavily populated of

all the provinces, encompassing Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and other well-known Dutch cities such as Delft and Leiden. The name Holland is therefore also used to refer to the Netherlands as a whole, even though the other provinces are sometimes a little unhappy about it. If you are going to study outside of the provinces of North and South Holland, try and use 'the Netherlands'. You'll notice you'll make more friends this way.



Qiuju Wang (25), China

## I have made many friends from all of the world

PhD in Company Law, University of Groningen

When I was a child, I read an article about the Netherlands. So I already knew there are clear rivers, many windmills and tulips everywhere. Now I feel so lucky to study in this beautiful and peaceful country, and the Dutch people are really nice and friendly. I like the international atmosphere here best. There is a pleasant study environment, the views are clean and beautiful, I have many close friends, and I have met tolerant and helpful people.

The teachers are very responsible and patient, and the course content corresponds closely with the practice. Thanks to the specific Master of Laws programme I completed, I acquired the latest knowledge and information in the fields I am interested in. But to achieve a good result as a PhD student, you must work hard. The whole process is definitely not so easy.

Previously, I lived in an international student house. The living conditions were quite comfortable. That period was wonderful. I was surprised to see that people in the building greet each other whether they know each other or not. It contributes to the good atmosphere between people.

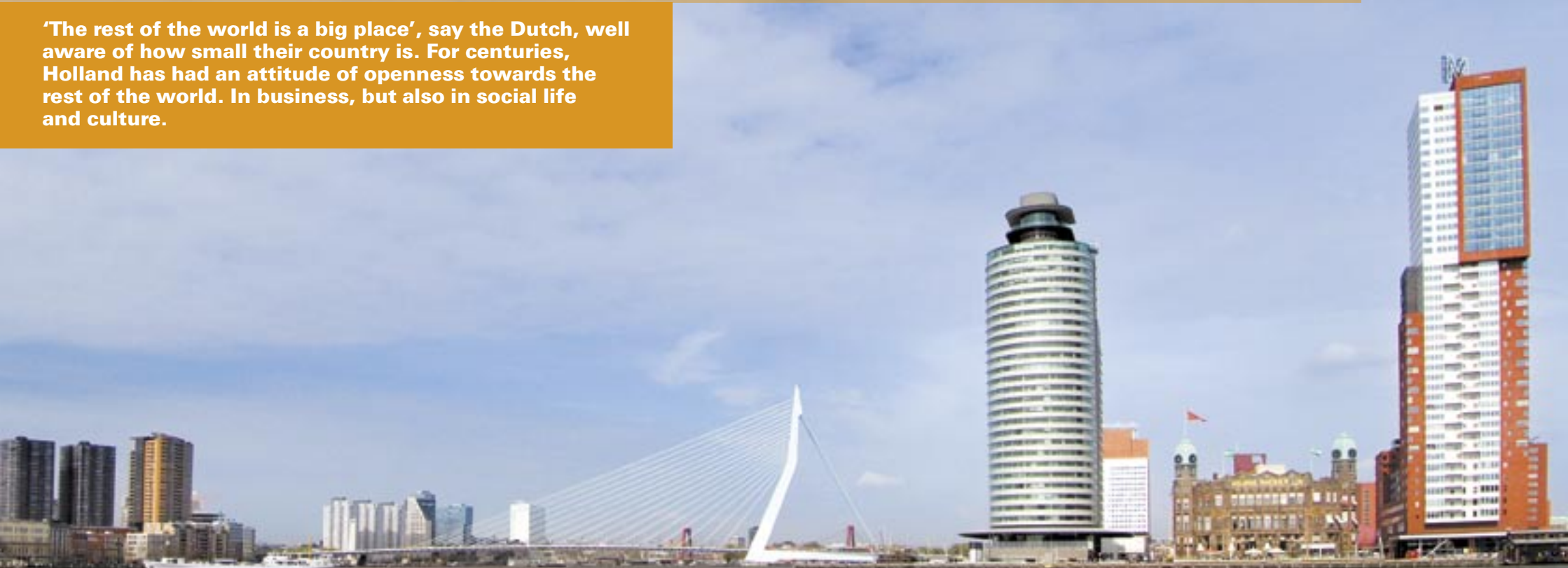
I have made many friends from all of the world. We played music together, watched movies and went to the pubs. Quite often, we sat and chatted in the living room. Because of our different cultures, we had many topics to talk about, something which broadens my horizon everyday. It's not only about learning and developing knowledge, but also about becoming more social and open-minded.

I feel free here, and I'm very grateful for that. I'm content with the life I lead here, and I have the impression that I'm not the only one. Another thing that strikes me all the time is that although China has a population nearly one hundred times more than that of the Netherlands, I see more smiling faces here.



# Holland a fine blend of culture and innovation

**'The rest of the world is a big place', say the Dutch, well aware of how small their country is. For centuries, Holland has had an attitude of openness towards the rest of the world. In business, but also in social life and culture.**



## Geography

Holland is situated in the west of Europe. To the east, Holland borders Germany, to the south Belgium and to the north and west, the North Sea. Once you arrive, you will be struck immediately by the landscape. The country is extremely flat. There are a few hills in the southeast corner of the country, but even those hills barely infringe on the broad, unbroken expanse of sky that is so characteristic of the Dutch landscape. Water is everywhere – lakes, rivers and canals. More than 16 million people live in an area of a little more than 41,000 square kilometres.

## Innovation and culture

Holland manages to combine history and traditional culture with innovation, modernity and an international orientation. The country that uses a simple tulip to symbolize its export industry is itself the largest non-English-speaking importer of English books. The Dutch population, after making a slow start, now seems to have one of the highest percentages of internet users in the world. With the same ease that the Dutch have taken to the high tech world, they are equally happy taking a quiet stroll along the historic canals that run through town. This contrast is typical of Holland, there is no contradiction between the two.

## Worldwide trade

Even in the early 17th century, Holland was an advanced country, with much of its wealth coming from trade. Located in the delta where several major European rivers flow into the North Sea, Holland was ideally situated to become a centre of trade and transport for all of western Europe. The 17th century was the Golden Age in Dutch history, not surprising when you realize that Dutch ships carried 90 per cent of all the goods in Europe.

Today, international trade is still the main engine of economic growth in Holland. In fact, Holland is one of the world's ten leading exporting nations. Rotterdam has the largest port in Europe and until 2004, when it was overtaken by Shanghai, also the largest in the world. Amsterdam's Schiphol airport is one of Europe's major airports. Holland is home to several internationally renowned banks, including ING and Rabobank, both of which are in the world's top 20 companies in their field. Philips is a Dutch company, and approximately half of Shell and Unilever are in Dutch hands. But there are also less known, though no less important, Dutch multinationals. Take Enraf Nonius, for example, the world's market-leader in physiotherapy and rehabilitation equipment. The carillon is a Dutch invention, as is the reality TV show Big Brother, the CD, which was developed by Philips, and the world famous DJ Tiësto.



## Exporter of agricultural products

Holland exports agricultural products to the whole world. It has a 7.7 per cent share of the global market. Nicknamed Europe's vegetable garden, it is the world's leading exporter of vegetables, while Dutch flowers hold a 60 per cent share of the world market. High-tech production methods and modern management have brought high yields, top quality and healthy revenues to Dutch agriculture.

## Water conservation

Holland lies on a flat, low delta and a quarter of the land is below sea level. Because of its precarious location, it has one of the best barrier dams in the world. Several Dutch companies are involved in water conservation projects and land reclamation throughout the world.

## An international living environment

The Dutch are accustomed to dealing with people from around the world, and above all, to working with them. Groups of people with non-Dutch backgrounds have been living in Holland for decades as a result of historical ties with other parts of the world. English is spoken by most of the Dutch. But German and French are spoken, too. Holland lies at the point where the German, British and French cultures meet. This is evident as soon as you turn on the television. In this well-cabled country, programming from the neighbouring countries and beyond can be received in nearly every household. Cinemas show films from around the world in their original languages. Alongside the usual church towers and synagogues, the minarets of mosques can increasingly be seen in the large cities. You can dance the salsa every bit as easily as in Latin America. And Asian, Mediterranean and fast foods are becoming as familiar as wholesome Dutch fare. The result of all of this is that Holland is a place where knowledge, ideas and cultures from all over the world come together.



## Geography

**Surface area:** 41,528 square kilometers, one quarter is below sea level

**Longest distance north-south:** 300 km

**Longest distance east-west:** 200 km

**Lowest altitude:** 6.74 meter below sea level (near Rotterdam)

**Highest altitude:** 323 meter (near Maastricht)

**Average summer temperature:** 16.6 Celsius

**Average winter temperature:** 2.8 Celsius

## Government

**Official name:** Kingdom of the Netherlands, commonly referred to as Holland or the Netherlands

**Form of government:** Constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliament

**Head of state:** The hereditary monarch

**Head of government:** The prime minister

**Capital city:** Amsterdam

**Seat of government:** The Hague

## Economy

**Currency:** 1 euro = 1.26 USDollar (May 2006)

**Gross domestic product (GDP):**

488 billion euro

**Per capita GDP:** 29,873 euro

**Cost of living:** A single student can live modestly on 700 - 1,000 euro a month

**International companies:** Philips, Heineken, Unilever, Shell are just some of the large international companies that originated in Holland

**Main airport:** Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam (the fourth largest airport in Europe, handling an annual 42.4 million passengers and 1.4 million tonnes of freight)

**Main seaport:** Rotterdam, the largest seaport in Europe, handling 353 million tonnes of cargo a year

**Internet use:** 78% of the Dutch people have Internet access at home

## Politics

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliament and universal suffrage based on a system of proportional representation. This system means that many parties can win seats in parliament such that no single party has an overall majority. The government must maintain the support of a parliamentary majority to stay in power. For this reason, cabinets are always multi-party coalitions chaired by the prime minister. The monarchy symbolizes national unity and therefore has a ceremonial character. Consequently, most of the population are loyal supporters of the monarchy and the royal family.

The first elections at which all men and women had the right to vote were held in 1922. The political preferences of the Dutch people are much the same as found in the rest of Europe: the three main moderate political tendencies are represented by the social democrats, the Christian democrats and the liberal parties. The smaller parties are generally less moderate variations on one of the three main tendencies. In the Netherlands, they are also referred to as 'ideological parties' (*getuigenispartijen*).

See [www.government.nl](http://www.government.nl) for information about the government and government policy.

See also [www.minbuza.nl](http://www.minbuza.nl) (available in English) for a brief summary of the history of the Netherlands.



Ivana Galetova (22), Czech Republic

## Dutch people are very organized and always busy

Teacher Training, Utrecht University of Applied Sciences

I study Education at the University of Brno and I decided to go abroad to enlarge my outlook. I'm here for only three months and that isn't enough to study the material in great depth. But being abroad is a great benefit for me anyway. I had heard and read a lot about the Netherlands before I came here. I was very curious to know if all these rumours about flowers on every corner, windmills, dykes, cheese and plenty of cyclists were true. I was looking forward to seeing the works of famous artists like Rembrandt, and experiencing one of the most tolerant atmospheres in Europe. Now I must say, my expectations were surpassed. Neither my friends nor the tourist guides were exaggerating about Holland. Dutch people are very organized and always busy. They're very kind, open and willing to help in every situation. I like their habits such as shopping every Saturday, drinking plenty of coffee and going everywhere by bike, whatever the weather is doing. I live in a student residence in the city centre. There are students from many countries, mostly European, but also from America, Australia and Africa. Some of them are my classmates, others have become my friends. But it's impossible to know all of them, it's huge. The student residence is a very nice place to stay, but it's expensive. It isn't easy to find accommodation in Holland, but if you try hard and deal with the right people and organizations, you'll discover the cheaper lodgings. I really appreciate having the chance to spend time in such an expressive and compelling country that the Netherlands definitely is. I love travelling and I'm interested in art: the Netherlands offers lots of possibilities in these directions. My tip to anyone going to the Netherlands: buy the train discount card and the museum card. I saved a lot of money this way.



Higher education in Holland enjoys a worldwide reputation for its high quality. Experience shows that people who have studied at a Dutch institution of higher education perform very well in other parts of the world. For a small country like Holland, this international orientation, including in education and training, is a must for survival in an increasingly internationalized world.

# Higher education in Holland



## International education in English

Higher education institutions in Holland offer about 1,150 international study programmes and courses which are taught in English. These programmes cover a broad range of fields. Curricula are intensive, at an advanced level, practically-oriented, and designed to meet the expectations of students seeking specialized knowledge. The courses alternate theory with practice in real or simulated work situations. Most study programmes and courses lead to a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, a PhD degree, a diploma or certificate.

## The Dutch education system

Holland has two main types of regular higher education: university and university of professional education. The universities focus on the independent practice of research-oriented work in an academic or professional setting. The universities of professional education are more practically-oriented, preparing students directly for specific careers. A smaller branch of education is provided by Institutes for International Education, which offer programmes designed especially for foreign students.

## Universities

There are 14 government-approved universities in Holland, three of which specialize in engineering. These institutions essentially train students in academic study and the application of knowledge, although many study programmes do also have a professional component and most graduates actually find work outside the research community. The universities vary in size, with enrolments ranging from 6,000 to 30,000. Altogether they enrol some 185,000 students.

## Universities of professional education

The study programmes offered by universities of professional education (hogescholen) are career-oriented. Acquiring practical work experience through internships is an integral part of professional study programmes. The country has 42 government-approved universities of professional education. The largest enrol 20,000 to 39,000 students. Altogether some 350,000 students are enrolled on this type of higher education programmes.

## Institutes for International Education

Holland has been offering another form of higher education for more than 50 years: advanced courses taught in English in what is known as 'international education'. These institutes (11) focus on development-oriented courses, based on working in small, intercultural groups and the exchange of knowledge, facilitated by teachers with extensive experience of working in low-income countries.

An overview of the universities, the universities of professional education and the Institutes for International Education can be found at [www.studyin.nl](http://www.studyin.nl) and on page 48 of this brochure.

## Degrees: bachelor, master and PhD

Students who enrol on higher education programmes will obtain a bachelor's degree upon completion of the undergraduate phase, and a master's degree upon completion of the graduate phase. Universities and universities of professional education award both types of degrees, but with a difference in orientation: most degree programmes at universities focus on academic study and research, and those at universities of professional education on practical, professional knowledge. Institutes for International Education offer master's programmes, but no bachelor's programmes.

A bachelor's programme at a university requires three years of full-time study (180 credits) to complete while a bachelor's programme offered by a university of professional education requires four years of full-time study (240 credits). Depending on the discipline, master's programmes at universities, universities of professional education and Institutes for International Education will last one to two years (60-120 credits). The doctorate (PhD) is only offered at universities and takes at least four years. A master degree is compulsory for admission.

## Students

**Total enrolment:** 559,000 students with men and women in approximately equal numbers  
**Average enrolment:** Institutions vary in size, enrolling anywhere from 300 to 25,000 students  
**Completion of studies:** Each year some 83,000 students complete their studies  
**Age entering university:** Variable, but most first-year students are around 18  
**Age graduating:** Variable, but most often 22 or 23  
**Foreign students:** 42,000 students, about half of whom are from Europe

## Higher education institutions in Holland

**Universities (research-oriented universities):**

- 14 universities, three of which specialize in engineering
- Bachelor, Master and PhD programmes

**Universities of professional education (career-oriented institutions):**

- 42 universities of professional education
- Bachelor and Master programmes

**Specialized Institutes of International Education:**

- 11 Institutes of International Education
- Master and PhD programmes, often aimed at mid-career professionals

**Research in Holland:**

- 10 of the 14 universities in Holland are in the top 200 of the Times Higher Education Ranking
- 5th place on the world ranking of number of publications per capita

## Higher education in Holland

### Universities

**PhD:** 4 years  
**Master of Arts (MA):** 1-2 years  
**Master of Science (MSc):** 1-2 years  
**Bachelor of Arts (BA):** 3 years  
**Bachelor of Science (BSc):** 3 years

### Universities of professional education

**Master (M):** 1-2 years  
**Bachelor (B):** 4 years

### Institutes for International Education

**PhD (only possible at 5 institutes):** 4 years  
**Master of Arts (MA):** 1-2 years  
**Master of Science (MSc):** 1-2 years

## Accreditation and Quality Control

Higher education in Holland enjoys a worldwide reputation for its high quality. This is achieved through a national system of regulation and quality assurance. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science ([www.minocw.nl](http://www.minocw.nl)) is responsible for legislation pertaining to education. See also [www.qa-in.nl](http://www.qa-in.nl).

If you look for an international programme or course in the database at [www.studyin.nl](http://www.studyin.nl), you will notice that the status of individual programmes is indicated by icons.

The accreditation of programmes is an ongoing process, which began in 2003, and it will take several years before all existing and new programmes have been reviewed and accredited. In the meantime it has been decided that those programmes which have been approved under the old system of quality assurance are also granted the status of accredited programme. Institutions may also offer bachelor's, master's or other programmes that have not been accredited by the NVAO, but by a body in another country. For example a master's programme offered by a Dutch university of professional education, but validated by an accredited British university.

Accredited programmes will be listed in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (CROHO). Responsibility for accreditation has been allocated to the Netherlands-Flemish Accreditation Organization (see [www.nvao.net](http://www.nvao.net)). Students will be awarded recognized degrees only after completing an accredited degree programme. Only degree programmes can be accredited by the NVAO.

## Accreditation of degree programmes

A degree programme leads to a bachelor's, master's or PhD degree.

The system of accreditation in higher education aims to guarantee that study programmes meet the highest standards. The law – the Accreditation of Higher Education Act 2002 – requires that all degree programmes offered by universities and universities of professional education be evaluated against a specific set of criteria. Programmes that meet the criteria are accredited (i.e. officially recognized).

## Quality control of specialized courses

A specialized course does not lead to a degree, but to a certificate or diploma. As these courses do not lead to a bachelor's or master's degree, they cannot be submitted for accreditation by the NVAO. The fact that a specialized course has not been accredited does not therefore mean that it does not meet quality criteria. The quality of specialized courses that are part of an accredited master's programme is assured through the accreditation of the main programme. For other sorts of specialized courses, a procedure is currently being prepared so that institutions are able to declare that the course meets a minimum set of quality criteria.

## The Dutch way of teaching

Respect for each individual's opinions and convictions is a national virtue that gives strength to the fabric of Holland's diverse and plural society. This is the foundation of the teaching method used at the Dutch educational institutions.



**Brenda Madrazo Gonzalez (24), Mexico**

## Holland provides more opportunities

Research Master in Human Geography and Planning,  
Utrecht University

Holland is a good option for someone who wants to study in Europe. Holland and the UK are recognized as prime places for programmes taught in English. However, the UK is very expensive, so Holland provides more opportunities. What's more, there are almost no two-year master's programmes in the UK, whereas in Holland there are many. In this regard, I find two-year master's programmes much more attractive. In one year, you barely have time to settle down, make friends, do research, write a thesis and get ready to leave. In two years, you can experience the full cycle much better, and you can take more advantage of being abroad. Holland also offers good opportunities to get scholarships, which is not only really helpful, but essential. My programme is quite interesting and I'm enjoying it very much. I looked hard to find an English-taught master's programme that precisely combined geography and planning, and this is the only one. So I was quite sure I wanted to study in Utrecht. Only the Christmas break is disappointing. Usually you get papers or exams to do, so it's not a real break in which you can go back home to visit family and friends. For the rest, it is nice that you can decide for yourself how to manage your time. However, I find that making plans with Dutch students is more difficult since they totally rely on their agendas, which are already full for the next coming weeks! There is not much room for spontaneity. This country is fascinating, definitely a place to experience. I like people's sense of proximity, efficiency and movement, especially in terms of going from one city to another for an event on the same day. I've been travelling around a lot and every city has something to offer. Moreover, there are many cheap flights to other places in Europe, so Holland provides a great opportunity to see Europe.





The teaching style can be described as student-centred, providing students with the attention and freedom they need to develop their own opinions and creativity in applying their newly acquired knowledge. Holland has received international acclaim for its groundbreaking Problem-Based Learning system, which trains students to analyze and solve practical problems independently through emphasis on self-study and self-discipline. A large portion of all study programmes is dedicated to writing papers, working in groups to analyze and solve specific problems, acquiring practical work experience through internships, and conducting experiments in laboratories.

### Admission requirements

To be admitted to a programme of higher study, you should first contact the institution that offers the programme. The main requirement for admission to a bachelor's programme is a secondary-school diploma at the appropriate level. Foreign

students must have a diploma judged equivalent to the minimum diploma required.

There are also study programmes - in the arts for example - for which institutions set their own additional requirements.

For admission to a master's degree programme, applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent.

In certain popular fields, the number of places is limited and quotas are set.

It is essential for foreign students to be able to speak, read and write English well.

Students must have passed an English language test. TOEFL is commonly accepted, but institutions may accept other tests as well, such as IELTS.

The required scores are at least 500 - 550 for TOEFL. For IELTS a score of at least 6 is required for the B and M level.

### Affordable study

Education in Holland is not free, but tuition fees are reasonable compared to other countries. The annual tuition fees for enrolment on a degree programme or course at a Dutch higher education institution start at approximately 1,500 euro for EU students. The costs of programmes or courses for non-EU students are generally higher, so we recommend that you visit our online database at [www.studyin.nl](http://www.studyin.nl).

### Code of Conduct for institutions

On 1 May 2006, the Code of Conduct with respect to international students in Dutch higher education came into effect. This Code sets out standards for Dutch higher education institutions in their dealings with international students. By signing the Code of Conduct, the institutions are offering international students a guarantee of the quality of their programmes, student recruitment, selection and counseling procedures. Only institutions that have signed up to the Code are allowed to recruit international students from outside the European Union (EU). This Code of Conduct is an initiative of the Dutch institutions.

The Code of Conduct requires educational institutions to provide timely, reliable and easily accessible information to international students about their study programmes. Specifically, this includes information such as accreditation status, quality, admission requirements as well as many more important rules and procedures for international students. The information provided by the educational institutions to international students on the basis of the Code of Conduct must be in English, in the language used for the study programme, or in the native language of the international

student. The educational institution must make clear what services it provides to international students, such as help with obtaining a visa and a residence permit, housing, introduction sessions and student counseling. In their information materials, educational institutions must specify clearly what services they offer and what the associated costs are.


Students from outside the EU, seeking a course at an institution of higher education that did not sign the Code of Conduct, will not be able to obtain visas. The full version of the Code of Conduct can be found at [www.internationalstudy.nl](http://www.internationalstudy.nl). This website also provides a list of the institutions that have signed the Code.

### Leading role

Holland has a broad number of disciplines in which it has a leading role.

The ones that are particularly well known around the world are:

- management & business studies
- agricultural sciences
- medicine
- civil engineering
- remote sensing
- arts & architecture



The Dutch government is attempting to make Dutch higher education as accessible as possible to students and mid-career professionals from other countries. In Holland, higher education is subsidized, which means that tuition fees can be kept relatively low, especially compared with the United Kingdom and the United States.

# Scholarships and exchange programmes



## Inbound students

**Foreign students enrolled on full-time, government-financed programmes:**

Estimated at 21,363 (2003-04)

**Main source countries of foreign students:**

1. Germany
2. Belgium
3. China
4. Indonesia
5. Vietnam

**Main specialties of foreign students:**

1. Business and administration
2. Social and behavioural science
3. Health
4. Engineering and engineering trades
5. Arts

**Dutch government spending on scholarships for foreign students:**

5.2 million euro a year

(source: Ministry of Education, 2004-05)

## Outbound students

**Dutch students going abroad (full time, regular HE):** Estimated at 12,000

**Scholarship recipients:** Some 6,200 students go abroad with a scholarship from one of the main Dutch Government or EU programmes (2003-04)

**Free movers:** Some 25,000 credit-mobile students a year pay their own way or have a scholarship from an unknown source

**Regions to which the scholarship recipients go:**

Europe (94%), other regions (6%).

Dutch government spending on scholarships for outgoing Dutch students: 2.6 million euro a year (source: Ministry of Education, 2004-05)

## Exchange programmes

The easiest and cheapest way to study in the Netherlands is through an exchange programme. Many Dutch higher education institutions have exchange agreements with partner institutions in countries throughout the world. Exchange programmes and agreements are often limited to specific fields or disciplines. Ask at your own university or college about the possibilities.

## Funding

There are several possibilities for obtaining funding. These are described here in brief. More information can be found at [www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl), an online search engine which brings together a range of Dutch scholarships for international students who wish to come to the Netherlands.

## Worldwide

### Huygens Scholarship Programme

The Huygens Scholarship Programme (HSP) is open to students from all countries of the world. It is aimed at excellent students who want to come to the Netherlands in the final phase of their bachelor's studies or during their master's studies. PhD applications can only be accepted from students from Croatia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania. The Dutch Minister for Education, Culture and Science has made four million euros available for international students coming to the Netherlands under the HSP Huygens programme. The minister has reserved part of the total budget for students following programmes in Dutch studies. Applications for HSP for the 2007-2008 academic year must be received by Nuffic by 1 February 2007 at the latest. More information about the application procedure and requirements can be found at [www.nuffic.nl/hsp/](http://www.nuffic.nl/hsp/).



### Erasmus Mundus

Erasmus Mundus is a programme of the European Commission. Its aim is to improve the quality of European higher education and to encourage cooperation with countries outside the EU. It does this through joint master's degree programmes offered by partner institutions in the member states. The programmes are based on a joint curriculum that is taught by cooperating institutions in at least three European countries.

Students both from inside and outside the EU can apply to follow these programmes. Students coming from outside the EU can apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship. A second Erasmus scholarship can be requested by EU students.

For further information, see also [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html).

### Tempus

The Tempus programme enables universities in a number of countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region to establish partnerships in the European Union that help them restructure their higher education systems.

The programme allows universities to offer scholarships for student exchanges only



within those partnerships. For information about existing partnerships (and related scholarships) please contact your own university. For more detailed information please visit <http://europa.eu.int/tempus>.

## Asia

### Y.C. Lo Scholarship Programme Taiwan

This programme for postgraduate studies supports promising Taiwanese graduates and young professionals intending to pursue postgraduate degree programmes at Dutch universities. Participants include a range of Dutch companies and institutions. More information about the Y.C. Lo Scholarship is available at the Netherlands Education Support Office in Taiwan or from [www.neso-taipei.org.tw](http://www.neso-taipei.org.tw).

### StuNed Scholarship Programme

StuNed Scholarships for Master studies, short courses and customized training programmes are available for Indonesian professionals with at least two years work experience in a development-related organization.

For more information contact NEC Indonesia [www.necindonesia.com](http://www.necindonesia.com).

## Europe

Most student exchanges within Europe are funded by the European Union. For European students, EU exchange programmes have the advantage that many important matters are already taken care of, such as funding, housing and acceptance at the institution. Often a student will know in advance how many credits he or she will earn during the period of exchange.

### Erasmus

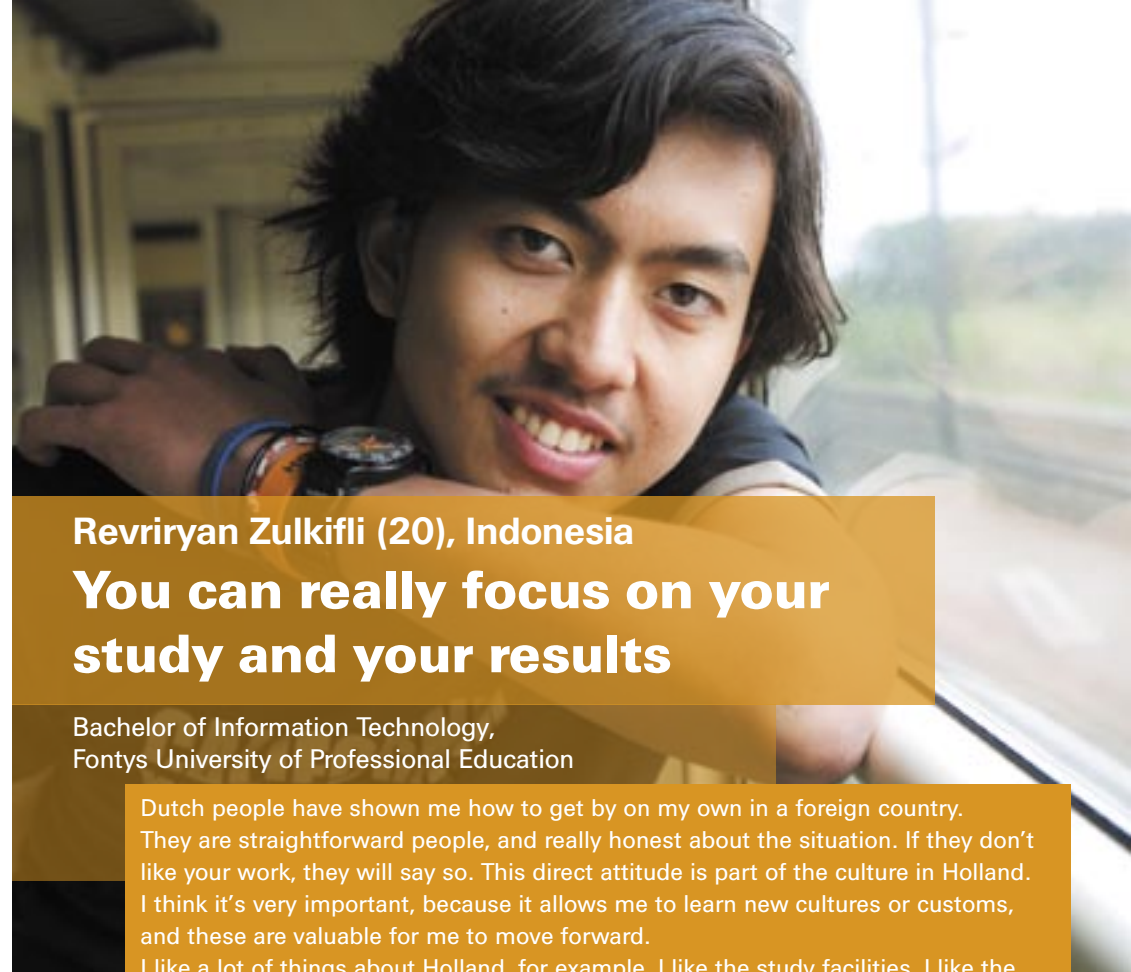
The Erasmus programme aims to encourage cooperation among the higher education institutions of Europe. A large amount of money is earmarked for supporting students who wish to complete part of their studies in another country of the European Union or to finance a European internship. An Erasmus scholarship covers a period of three to twelve months. Your own institution must participate in the programme and must also have a bilateral agreement with an institution in the Netherlands before your mobility period abroad starts. For more detailed information, please visit the local website of the National Agency in your own country, which you can find at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/nat-est\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/nat-est_en.html).

### Leonardo

Leonardo is the European programme for professional education. The programme finances internships in the Netherlands for periods of three to twelve months. Only students or graduates from educational institutions that take part in the programme and have a structural relationship with a company in the Netherlands are eligible for a Leonardo grant. Your institution sets the exact eligibility criteria and the amount of the grant. For more detailed information contact your own institution or visit: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo/leonardo2/naweb\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo/leonardo2/naweb_en.html).

### More information about the European programmes

You can obtain more information about these European programmes from your own institution, from the EU information centre in your own country, or from Nuffic. For information about opportunities related to regular student grants and refunds for the double payment of tuition fees, students from EU member states can contact the Informatie Beheer Groep at +31 (0)50 599 77 55 or [www.ib-groep.nl](http://www.ib-groep.nl).



**Revriryan Zulkifli (20), Indonesia**

## You can really focus on your study and your results

Bachelor of Information Technology,  
Fontys University of Professional Education

Dutch people have shown me how to get by on my own in a foreign country. They are straightforward people, and really honest about the situation. If they don't like your work, they will say so. This direct attitude is part of the culture in Holland. I think it's very important, because it allows me to learn new cultures or customs, and these are valuable for me to move forward.

I like a lot of things about Holland, for example, I like the study facilities, I like the environment, I like the people, I like the public transport, and I like the culture. Holland is a developed, calm country, where the educational system is settled. So thanks to this stability, you can really focus on your study and your results. I think it is important to remember to make a success of your study here in Holland. Make sure the "investment" of the people who put their trust in you doesn't go to waste. This must be your first objective when you go and study abroad. And you should endeavour try to make yourself useful to society afterwards.

A last piece of advice: before your departure from your home country to Holland, take all the documents with you, such as passport, birth certificate, diploma transcript, letter of acceptance, and so on. Administrative problems can cost you a lot, financially and emotionally.





## North America

### ISEP

American students can apply to the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). ISEP offers diverse exchange programmes, which are administered in their own country. For more information [www.isep.org](http://www.isep.org).

### Fulbright Scholarships

Fulbright Scholarships are available for American graduate students and researchers. Inquire at your own institution or at the Netherlands America Commission for Educational Exchange (Fulbright Center) [www.fulbright.nl](http://www.fulbright.nl).

### Transatlantic Degree Consortia

Transatlantic Degree Consortia are a new form of partnership programmes between the EU and the US. Curricula are being developed for bachelor's programmes that lead to the award of a joint or double degree. A consortium has to include one higher education establishment in the US and at least two in the EU. Students spend time studying on both sides of the Atlantic. For more information, see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/eu-usa/consult\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/eu-usa/consult_en.html).



## Asia, Africa, Latin-America and Eastern Europe

### Netherlands Fellowship Programmes

The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) are demand-driven fellowship programmes designed to foster capacity building within organizations in 57 developing countries by providing training and education to their mid-career staff members. The NFP are funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the budget for development cooperation.

The need for education and training must occur within the organization of the applicant. This means that applicants must be nominated by their employers. In fact, applications without the support of an employer will not be considered.

There are five NFP sub-programmes:

- Fellowships for master's degree programmes
- Fellowships for PhD studies
- Fellowships for short courses
- Tailor-made training courses
- Refresher courses

NFP master's, NFP short courses and NFP PhD studies award fellowships to individuals. NFP also finances tailor-made training courses that are designed to meet the specific training needs of an organization in one of the NFP countries. NFP Refresher Courses finances courses for NFP alumni who would like to prolong the effect of earlier learning and update their knowledge and skills.

### More information about NFP

More information about NFP, including the application forms, are available at Netherlands embassies and consulates, NEC/NESO offices or from Nuffic's website [www.nuffic.nl/nfp](http://www.nuffic.nl/nfp).

Applicants for PhD studies, master's degree programmes or short courses must first gain academic admission to the course of their choice before applying for a fellowship through the Netherlands embassy or consulate in their country. Also, they can only apply for an NFP fellowship if the course is on the NFP course list for that particular year.

In all cases, applicants are advised to contact the Netherlands embassy, consulate or NEC/NESO well in advance for specific instructions, and to inquire about specific local procedures and deadlines, requirements and selection criteria.

These may differ from the general information provided on Nuffic's website or in the brochures.

## NFP country list

To be eligible for an NFP fellowship, applicants must be a national of one of the following countries:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Armenia
- Autonomous Palestinian Territories
- Bangladesh
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Cape Verde
- China \*
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Guinea-Bissau
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Ivory Coast
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Macedonia
- Mali
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Suriname
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

\* excluding citizens of Hong Kong and Macao





# Preparing for study in Holland

**Be sure to allow plenty of time for preparations. You will need to start planning your stay a year in advance. Remember, the academic year in Holland runs from the end of August to the end of June.**





## Visas and residence permits

To enter Holland for study purposes, inhabitants from most countries need a visa. This is a sticker placed in your passport at the Dutch embassy or consulate in your own country, but it must be applied for well in advance. For a stay of less than three months, you might need a 'short stay visa' (*Visum Kort Verblijf*), depending on your nationality. If you will be staying for longer than three months, you need an 'authorization for temporary stay' (*Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf*, or MVV). This requirement does not apply to citizens of the EU/EEA, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Switzerland or Monaco.

## Application procedure

The regular application procedure for an MVV may take three to six months, sometimes even longer. The Dutch host institution can apply for an MVV on your behalf using a fast-track procedure. But to do this, the institution must give the authorities a guarantee, which they sign. Institutions will not always agree to do this. But it is worth asking the institution about the fast-track procedure, because it will save both time and trouble. The administration fee for an MVV is 433 euro if you apply for it yourself and 250 euro if the Dutch host institution applies for the MVV on your behalf.

Within three days of arriving in Holland, all foreign nationals must register with the local municipality. Those intending to stay for longer than three months also need to obtain a residence permit (*verblijfsvergunning*). You may need this even if you did not require a visa to enter the country. The administration fee for a residence permit currently stands at 433 euro if you do not need an MVV and 188 euro if you do need an MVV.

## European citizens

Nationals of EU/EEA states are not required by law to apply for a residence permit. Nor are they required to register with the Dutch immigration authorities. However, it is advisable to do this in order to avoid hassles when dealing with certain authorities and companies. You can find more information about how and where to register on [www.ind.nl](http://www.ind.nl) and [www.nuffic.nl/immigration](http://www.nuffic.nl/immigration).

## Work permits

International students, with a non-EU/EEA nationality, who do an internship or practical training as part of their studies in the Netherlands may not need to have a work permit anymore after 1 October 2006. In the upcoming months the Dutch government will take a final decision on this proposition of the Dutch cabinet. If you have followed a programme of study in your home country, and you come to the Netherlands solely for an internship or practical training, you will need a work permit if you are not an EU/EEA national. Your employer must apply for this permit for you. You also need a work permit if you want to take paid work alongside your studies. There are two options if you want to work while you study: either less than ten hours

a week year-round, or full-time during the months of June, July and August only. If you have successfully completed your programme of higher education, you may apply for a residence permit to work. To do this, you must have a contract of employment. For more information about all of these procedures, see [www.nuffic.nl/immigration](http://www.nuffic.nl/immigration).

## Insurance

Dutch law requires everyone living in Holland to be covered by health insurance. Students must make sure that they have adequate cover. If the insurance you have in your own country provides full cover for medical costs while you are in Holland, you should bring with you a statement (in English) detailing the insurance cover. If you do not have adequate cover, you will have to take out a policy. In some situations you may be obliged to join the Dutch public health insurance scheme, for example if you have a job in Holland or if you are going to be staying in Holland for a few years or longer. The student dean at your host institution can provide you with more information. Some insurance policies are specially developed for students, please see [www.nuffic.nl/pdf/service/factsh/health-insurance.pdf](http://www.nuffic.nl/pdf/service/factsh/health-insurance.pdf).

## Housing

If you are taking part in an exchange programme or are enrolled on an international course, it is quite possible that a room will be arranged for you. Accept it immediately, or you will regret it later! Finding a place to live in a country as crowded as Holland is not easy. It is even difficult for Dutch students to find their own rented rooms on the private market. Rooms are generally unfurnished, and kitchens and bathrooms are often shared with others. Most rental contracts are for at least six months or a year. Before you leave your own country, ask your host institution whether or not housing will be arranged for you in advance.

## Costs


The EIU's latest Worldwide Cost of Living Survey shows that the cost of living in Amsterdam is modest compared with cities like New York, London, Paris and Beijing. Experience shows that to live and study in Holland for one year costs a student between 700 and 1,000 euro a month. This is needed to cover daily expenses, to pay the rent, and for registration and tuition fees.

You cannot rely on finding a source of additional income after you arrive. The institutions have very limited funds for supporting students. If you are from an EU or EEA member state, however, you may be entitled to a regular student grant or to a refund of the tuition fees.

For specific information, contact the *Informatie Beheer Groep*, [www.ib-groep.nl](http://www.ib-groep.nl).

## Checklist

- 1 Examine the available study programmes. See [www.studyin.nl](http://www.studyin.nl) for a recent list of international study programmes and courses. To avoid disappointment, make some second choices as well.
- 2 Make sure that the programme of your choice is an accredited programme. If it is not, it doesn't mean that its quality is not up to par, but it may mean that the degree is not formally recognized in the Netherlands. As a consequence the degree may not be recognized in your home country.
- 3 Contact the Dutch embassy or the international relations office of your own institution to find out about scholarship and exchange opportunities and look at [www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl).
- 4 Contact the institution in Holland that offers the programme you have chosen, and ask for more information about admission requirements, etc.
- 5 If the programme is suitable and you meet the requirements, follow the institution's procedure for gaining admission.
- 6 At the same time, check which immigration regulations apply to you. You will find this information at: [www.nuffic.nl/immigration](http://www.nuffic.nl/immigration) or [www.ind.nl](http://www.ind.nl).
- 7 Gather all the documents which the Dutch immigration authorities require in your case. If you need an entry visa (MVV), ask your host institution if they can arrange it on your behalf.
- 8 Ask the host institution about arranging a place for you to live.
- 9 Check whether your current health insurance provides sufficient coverage while you are in Holland. Check the information on [www.nuffic.nl/pdf/service/factsh/healthinsurance.pdf](http://www.nuffic.nl/pdf/service/factsh/healthinsurance.pdf).
- 10 Once all of your papers are in order, you can start making your travel plans.

A close-up portrait of Julius Fofang Awambeng, a young Black man with a slight smile, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a dark jacket. The background is blurred, showing some greenery and a building.

## Julius Fofang Awambeng (29), Cameroon

### The curriculum is rich and intensive

International Hotel Management, International University of Applied Sciences NHTV Breda

In Cameroon, I was a receptionist at a hotel. I'm happy that I could come to Holland to follow a study programme that I've dreamt of for a long time. The most important thing is that I know I have a future with my international degree after graduation. It is recognized everywhere, so I can be confident that I will find a job.

The study system is not the same as in Cameroon. In the Netherlands, there are only a few students in a class, so the tutor can easily monitor the progress of each student closely. Grades are awarded according to your competences.

The curriculum is rich and intensive. You need to be very motivated to complete the academic year successfully. In general, classes take all day. The weekends are free, but I have to do assignments and prepare for the coming week. My student life is busy, so an agenda is a necessity for me.

The facilities for studies and leisure are modern and available to every student: the library, all the media, the infrastructure and machines, sport accommodations, you name it.

Although the cost of rent for your room and insurance isn't cheap, study in Holland is less expensive compared to other countries. The tuition fees and the price of food and drink are relatively low.

One good tip: start as early as possible with your admission procedure because it can take some time. It's important to study the rules and regulations very well before making plans.

About the Dutch: I think they are hard-working, hospitable and proud people. Their lifestyle is simple and sociable, but strict. This explains, in my opinion, why they are able to train good and successful managers.





# Living in Holland

The Dutch have an urban, cosmopolitan lifestyle, but they live in cities built on a human scale. The cities are a nice mix of traditional and modern architecture. You can get nearly everywhere in Holland by bike or by train, and there are plenty of activities and cultural attractions to enjoy during your leisure time.



## Population

**Total population:** 16,335,509 inhabitants (December 2005), Holland is the third most crowded country in the world

**Ethnic composition:** 90% of the inhabitants are ethnically Dutch, and 7% have their roots in one of the following countries: another EU member state, Indonesia, Suriname, Turkey, Morocco, or the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba

**Foreign residents:** 3 million (without Dutch nationality)

**Religion:** 52% identify themselves as Christian, 40% claim no affiliation, and 8% belong to other religions

**National language:** Dutch. Nearly everyone also speaks English, especially in the larger cities and towns. Many Dutch people speak German and French as well. In the northern province of Friesland, Frisian is spoken as a second language by some 600,000 people

## Average prices

**A cup of coffee/tea in a café** 1.50 euros

**A cheese sandwich** 2.00 euros

**A Big Mac** 2.95 euros

**Dinner in a typical student restaurant**  
10 euros

**A cinema ticket** 7.50 euros

**A text message on your mobile phone**  
from 0.07 euros

## Daily life

In daily life, you may suddenly find yourself thinking about the things that you take for granted at home, such as finding a place to live, taking out insurance, finding out whether you're allowed to work, and getting used to a different currency. But you are also bound to have some practical questions too, like how to get a mobile phone, how to send a parcel home, what are the rules of the road, etc. For more information and useful links, see [www.international-students.nl](http://www.international-students.nl). For a general view of life in Holland, take a look at the interesting movies on [www.vi5ions.nl](http://www.vi5ions.nl).

## Student culture

The higher education institutions are spread throughout the country and very few of them have campuses. The buildings of a single university might even be scattered throughout a city. Nevertheless, there certainly is a student culture. Around each institution, a network of associations brings students together for study-related activities, sports and recreation. These associations are run by students and some are internationally oriented. Students also have their favourite pubs, restaurants and other meeting places. In general, we can say that the Dutch higher education community seeks to be part of society and not isolated from it.

## Security

By international standards, Holland is a safe country, with low levels of violence and street crime. The police are friendly and helpful, they have a duty to protect everyone and can always be safely approached. If you contact them, don't worry about language difficulties as the police will always find someone, free of charge, who speaks your language. In an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress you can contact the police, fire brigade or ambulance by dialling 112 from any phone (free of charge).

It is essential that you take out insurance when you arrive in Holland to insure your belongings against theft and accidental damage. For general information on insurance, look at [www.ace-ips-nl.com](http://www.ace-ips-nl.com).

## Costs

Although differences between incomes are relatively small in Holland, most students live towards the bottom of the economic ladder. If you have an average student income – from a scholarship for example – you will find that one-third of it will go towards housing. Food might cost you another third. Fortunately, most higher education institutions offer hot meals at reasonable prices. Many cities have pubs (*eetcafé's*) where you can eat cheaply and well. But the cheapest way to eat is to do your own cooking. The remaining third of your money will go towards books, travel, and other expenses.

## Leisure

The Netherlands is more varied than you might think. There's plenty to see, from strolling through town, making a boat trip on the canals or lakes, lazing on the beach, to walking in the woods and dunes. Have a look at [www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com) to see what the possibilities are. There's no shortage of entertainment either. Major international stars regularly play at Dutch stadiums and other smaller venues.

Parkpop (in The Hague in June) is the biggest free live music festival in Europe. Musicals and the theatre are also very popular. With over 1,000 museums, there's a lot for you to discover in the Netherlands (more information at [www.concert.nl](http://www.concert.nl) and [www.museumserver.nl](http://www.museumserver.nl) in Dutch).

At Queen's Day or when the national soccer team is playing, people dress in orange and go partying in the street.

## Food

Dutch cuisine is not exactly world famous. The Dutch themselves do not have a fine tradition of cooking, and hot meals are limited to one a day, traditionally in the evening. Breakfast generally consists of sliced bread with cheese, sliced meat or jam. Most people have sandwiches for lunch with the addition of perhaps soup, a salad or fruit. For the evening meal, large quantities of potatoes and vegetables are accompanied by a relatively small serving of meat or fish. This traditional diet is also the most economical.

In recent years, however, Dutch tastes are becoming more international and refined. You will find a large variety of products (pasta dishes, rice, curry) in the regular supermarkets, and many restaurants offer a wide range of international dishes.



## Travel

Holland is a small country. You do not really need a car to get around. Public transport will take you almost anywhere you need to go. Although train and bus fares are not cheap, it costs much more to operate a car. Consider buying a discount card for the train; it really is worth the investment. The Netherlands has a dense railway network that offers frequent service and the quickest way to travel between city centres. Particularly in the western part of the country, the cities are easily accessible by train, even at night. Use a travel planner ([www.9292ov.nl](http://www.9292ov.nl), in Dutch) to work out your journey beforehand, and you'll be there in no time. The bicycle is the cheapest and easiest way to get around, especially if you live in a city. Most Dutch people, regardless of their profession or status, own a bicycle. Buy a second-hand one rather than a new one. This will save you money, but be sure to buy at least one strong lock. Sometimes a good lock costs more than the bike itself!

## Mentality

The Netherlands is a 'self-service country'. That means that the Dutch try to manage most of the things themselves, which makes them very independent and organized. They take their own shopping bags to the supermarket, they weigh the vegetables themselves, they perform all kinds of repair jobs and, in the eyes of the Dutch, the best remedy for the flu is good rest and not immediately medicines. Another distinctive characteristic of the Dutch people is their openness and direct way of acting and speaking. You will notice that you can say what is on your mind, the Dutch aren't offended easily. The physical flatness of the

country also reflects the mentality. Society is organized in a non-hierarchical way. For example, a teacher is most of the time accessible and a real interlocutor for his students. You'll be on familiar terms with everybody very soon.

## Religion

Although modern Dutch society is very secular and not many Dutch people identify with an organized religion, you will see plenty of churches, mosques and other places of worship. You will have plenty of opportunities to practice your own religion if you wish. Ask the student affairs office of your host institution to help you locate practitioners of your religion. Or telephone the Netherlands Centre for Foreigners in Utrecht at [www.ncbnet.nl](http://www.ncbnet.nl) (in Dutch).

## Problems

If you encounter a problem, the first person to talk to should be the person who can help resolve it. If, for example, you have problems about your course, first talk to your tutor about it. Because of cultural differences or because you are new to the Netherlands, you may wish to find out more. In the first instance, contact the international student office at your university. Almost all universities and universities of professional education have a counsellor who is assigned to help students or handle complaints.

If you tried all the options above and you still can't get the right help, the International Student Helpdesk ([www.nuffic.nl/ish](http://www.nuffic.nl/ish)) will be able to point you in the right direction. This website provides you with information about the problems most commonly faced by international students in the Netherlands.



Linn Torp (23), Norway

## Dutch people are friendly, open and honest

Bachelor in Communication, INHOLLAND University of Applied Sciences, Rotterdam

I like studying in the Netherlands, especially at an international school. It's completely different than studying in your own country. We work a lot in groups and that is very interesting, even if it is frustrating sometimes. It is a challenge to come to a solution that people from five different countries can agree on. I learn a lot from it every day. Dutch people are friendly, open and honest. When you try to learn the language they react in a very enthusiastic way. On the other hand, they can also be rude in this crowded city. I really like the small old villages in Holland, and the beaches. I could not believe just how beautiful they were!

There is not much organized for the international students at my school. Social things happen on people's own initiative. But Thursdays and the weekend are very lively in the city, and there's always something happening.

Studying abroad is an experience for a lifetime. You learn a lot about yourself and about other cultures. In the Netherlands, you meet people from all over the world in a small country, so you get to know a lot of cultures here. Moreover, it is a perfect location for taking small trips to other countries all over Europe. Before I came here, I thought society in Holland was almost like mine, but it turned out to be quite different and new. That is what I like best about living here.

## Useful websites and addresses

### General information about Holland

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with addresses of Dutch embassies abroad  
[www.minbuza.nl/english/homepage.asp](http://www.minbuza.nl/english/homepage.asp)
- Information on Dutch immigration laws  
[www.mobstacles.nl](http://www.mobstacles.nl)
- Netherlands Board of Tourism, including a map of Holland  
[www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com)
- A movie that portrays the life of five foreigners in Holland  
[www.vi5ions.nl](http://www.vi5ions.nl)

### Study in Holland

- Everything about study in Holland, including a list of study programmes in English  
[www.studyin.nl](http://www.studyin.nl)
- Online search engine, which brings together a range of Dutch scholarships for international students  
[www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl)
- This website is the portal for all foreign students in Holland  
[www.international-students.nl](http://www.international-students.nl)
- The website of the international student organization  
[www.aiesec.nl](http://www.aiesec.nl)
- The site of the Erasmus Student Network in the Netherlands  
[www.esn-nl.org](http://www.esn-nl.org)
- Nuffic, Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education  
[www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl)
- More information about accreditation and a list of accredited study programmes  
[www.nvao.nl](http://www.nvao.nl)
- The Association of Universities in the Netherlands  
[www.vsnu.nl](http://www.vsnu.nl)
- The Association of Universities of Professional Education  
[www.hbo-raad.nl](http://www.hbo-raad.nl)
- Quality assurance in Dutch higher education  
[www.qa-in.nl](http://www.qa-in.nl)

### Living in Holland

- AON, insurance for foreign students  
[www.myaon.nl/fellows](http://www.myaon.nl/fellows)
- IPS, the Insurance Passport for Students, is specially developed for students, researchers and teachers going abroad to study or work.  
[www.ace-ips-nl.com](http://www.ace-ips-nl.com)
- Living in the Netherlands or moving to the Netherlands  
[www.expatica.com/index.asp](http://www.expatica.com/index.asp)
- Learn Dutch; the Learn Dutch website is a resource for Distance Learners who like to exercise their mind with a difficult-to-learn language  
[www.learnndutch.org](http://www.learnndutch.org)

### Netherlands Education Support Offices

Netherlands Education Support Offices are overseas representative offices of Nuffic and provide information, support and liaison for the academic communities of the Netherlands and of the country they are situated in.

#### China (also covering Hong Kong)

Netherlands Education Support Office China  
Beijing New World Center  
South Office Tower 615  
3 Chongwenmenwai Street  
Beijing 100062, P.R. China  
Tel: +86 (10) 6708 4086  
[www.nesochina.com](http://www.nesochina.com)

#### Indonesia

Netherlands Education Centre Indonesia  
Menara Jamsostek 20th floor  
Jl. Gatot Subroton no.38  
Jakarta 12710  
Tel: +62 21 5290 2172  
[www.necindonesia.com](http://www.necindonesia.com)

#### Taiwan

Netherlands Education Support Office Taipei  
Room D, 7th floor  
133 Minsheng E. Road, Section 3  
Taipei 105, Taiwan  
Tel: +886 2 8770 7621  
[www.neso-taipei.org.tw](http://www.neso-taipei.org.tw)

#### Vietnam

Netherlands Education Support Office Vietnam  
35, Le Thanh Ton St. District 1,  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
Tel: +8822 0713 or +822 0724  
[www.nesovietnam.com](http://www.nesovietnam.com)

#### Mexico

Netherlands Education Support Office Mexico  
Presidente Masarik 191, 7th Floor, Colonia Polanco  
zip.11570 Mexico City, Mexico  
Tel: +52 55 3200 8682  
[www.nesomexico.com](http://www.nesomexico.com)



## Institutions for higher education in Holland

This is a complete overview of all the institutions for higher education in Holland.

For the institutions which offer international courses, go to the ISPAC database at [www.studyin.nl](http://www.studyin.nl).

For more information about the institutions and direct links, see also [www.studyin.nl](http://www.studyin.nl).

### Dutch universities

This list is based upon the overview of CROHO.

### Government-funded universities

Delft University of Technology  
Erasmus University Rotterdam  
Eindhoven University of Technology  
Leiden University  
Maastricht University  
Open University of the Netherlands  
Radboud University Nijmegen  
Tilburg University  
Universiteit van Amsterdam  
University of Groningen  
University of Twente  
Utrecht University  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
Wageningen University

### Government-approved universities

Katholieke Theologische Universiteit te Utrecht  
Theologische Faculteit Tilburg  
Theologische Universiteit van de Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken  
Theologische Universiteit van de Gereformeerde Kerken  
Theologische Universiteit van de Gereformeerde Kerken (vrijg.) Ned.  
Transnationale Universiteit Limburg  
Nyenrode Business Universiteit  
University for Humanistics

Universiteit Nimbas Graduate School of Management

### Dutch universities of professional education

The English term preferred by most Dutch hogescholen is 'University of Professional Education', and many add this as a subtitle to their Dutch name. This list is based upon the overview of CROHO.

### Government-funded universities of professional education

Amsterdam School of the Arts,  
University of Professional Education  
ArtEZ Institute for the Arts,  
University of Professional Education  
AVANS University of Professional Education (several locations)  
CHN University of Professional Education  
Codarts, University of Professional Arts Education  
De Kempel, University of Professional Education, Teacher Training College  
Design Academy Eindhoven, University of Professional Education  
Drenthe University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education  
Driestar Christian University of Professional Education  
Dronten, University of Professional Education, Agricultural  
Ede Christian University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education  
Fontys Pedagogic Technical University of Professional Education  
Fontys University of Professional Education (several locations)  
Gerrit Rietveld Academie, University of Professional Education  
HAN University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education  
Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen, University of Professional Education

HAS Den Bosch University of Professional Education  
Helicon University of Professional Education, based on anthroposophy  
HES Amsterdam School of Economics and Business, University of Professional Education  
Hogeschool Domstad, University of Professional Education, Teacher Training  
Hogeschool De Horst, University of Professional Education  
Hogeschool Edith Stein OCT, University of Professional Education, Teacher Training  
Hogeschool Leiden, University of Professional Education  
Hogeschool van Amsterdam, University of Professional Education  
Hogeschool van Utrecht, University of Professional Education  
Hogeschool Zeeland, University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education  
Hotelschool The Hague International Institute for Hospitality Management  
INHOLLAND University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education (several locations)  
IPABO Amsterdam, University of Professional Education, Teacher Training  
Iselinge, University of Professional Education, Teacher Training  
Marnix Academie, University of Professional Education, Teacher Training  
NHL University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education  
NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education  
Reformed University of Professional Education Zwolle  
Roman Catholic Primary Teacher Training College Zwolle, University of Professional Education  
Rotterdam University of Professional Education

Royal Academy of Art, University of Professional Education  
Saxion Universities of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education (several locations)  
STOAS, University of Professional Education, Teacher Training  
The Hague University of Applied Sciences, University of Professional Education  
Utrecht School of the Arts, University of Professional Education  
Van Hall Instituut/Larenstein, University of Professional Education  
Windesheim University of Professional Education  
Zuyd University of Professional Education (several locations)

### Government-approved universities of professional education

HANIO, HAN Individueel Onderwijs  
Hogeschool Thorbecke  
Instituut Brouwer  
Stichting Hoger Onderwijs NOVI  
Azusa Theologische Hogeschool (in Dutch)  
St Amsterdamse Balletacademie  
The New School for Information Services  
Stichting Hoger Onderwijs voor Bedrijfskundige Informatiekunde  
Stichting opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs voor Tolken en Vertalers  
Markus Verbeek Opleidingen Stichting Hoger Onderwijs  
Hogeschool GEO  
PBNA-HBO  
HBO Nederland  
Hogeschool Dirksen B.V.  
Nationale Luchtvaart School  
Knowledge Services (IBBB)  
European University for Professional Education  
Hogeschool Schoevers  
Academie voor Eurythmie  
InterCollege Business School

Dutch Delta University of Professional Education  
 Hogeschool Hanzesteden  
 Hogeschool Wittenborg  
 Hogeschool DOC  
 TMO, Hogeschool voor Modemanagement  
 Stichting ABC Hogeschool Dordrecht en Omstreken  
 IVA Driebergen  
 De Stichtse Hogeschool  
 Theologische HS vanwege de Gereformeerde Bond 'Johannes Calvijn'  
 Stichting Post-Hoger Onderwijs Eindhoven  
 Hogeschool Notenboom  
 Fontys Bedrijfshogeschool  
 Hogescholen Oost Nederland  
 Hogeschool Gorinchem IDE bv  
 Christelijke leergangen op reformatorische grondslag de Driestar  
 Hogeschool voor Pedagogisch en Sociaal-Agogisch Onderwijs Groningen  
 Hogeschool TIO  
 Stichting Hogeschool Rens & Rens  
 Hogeschool ISBW B.V.  
 Stichting NTI Hogeschool  
 Stichting LOI Hoger Onderwijs  
 Internationale Hogeschool voor fysiotherapie Thim van der Laan  
 Bourdon Hogeschool voor Muziek  
 NEA Transport Hogeschool  
 Hogeschool Praehel  
 Eurocollege Hogeschool  
 KBK Hogeschool B.V.  
 Hogeschool Thorn Kreato Muziekacademie  
 Instituut voor psychosynthese  
 Stichting Stichtse Opleiding Middelbare Akten (SOMA)  
 ITV Hogeschool voor Tolken en Vertalen  
 Stichting NBI Hogeschool voor theologie  
 Evangelische Theologische Hogeschool  
 Stichting management opl. gezondheidszorg Zeeland te Vlissingen  
 Stichting Hogeschool West-Nederland voor Vertaler en Tolk

Stichting Esperanto bij het Onderwijs  
 Hogeschool Management Documentaire Informatievoorziening (HMDI)  
 De Wittenberg; Chr. hogeschool en toerustingscentrum  
 De Vrije Muziek-Akademie  
 Stichting Windesheim  
 Hogeschool Schumann Akademie BV  
 Stichting Reformatorische Leergangen

### **Dutch Institutes for International Education**

This list is based upon the overview of FION.

International Agricultural Centre (Wageningen International, formerly IAC)  
 Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (HIS)  
 Institute for Plant, Animal and Technology (PTC+)  
 International Maritime Transport Academy (STC)  
 Institute of Social Studies (ISS)  
 International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)  
 Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)  
 Larenstein University of Professional Education  
 Maastricht School of Management (MSM)  
 Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC)  
 Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE)

### **Other Dutch higher education institutions**

Business School Netherlands (BSN)  
 Hogeschool van Utrecht,  
 Theo Thijssen Academie  
 Pro Education B.V. van de Hogeschool van Amsterdam  
 Roosevelt Academy  
 Schouten en Nelissen  
 Stichting Wetenschappelijke opleidingen Twente  
 Transfergroep Rotterdam

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Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education

**Nuffic is a non-profit, professional organization aimed at making education accessible all over the world, especially in countries where educational infrastructure is lagging behind.**

**Education is crucial for fostering global socio-economic development, improving the quality of life, and increasing intercultural understanding. Nuffic strives to be the intermediary between the education community of the Netherlands and the international community.**

**Nuffic's main areas of activity are:**

- Development cooperation
- Internationalization
- International credential evaluation
- International marketing of Dutch higher education





